

## Palestine and Transjordan before Islam

### Dumbarton Oaks Symposium 1995

A symposium on Palestine and Transjordan before Islam was held at Dumbarton Oaks on April 28–30, 1995, under the direction of Jean-Pierre Sodini, professor of Byzantine archaeology at the University of Paris–I (Pantheon-Sorbonne). The main goal was to confront, on the one hand, the prosperous state of the economy and material civilization and, on the other hand, the weaknesses of a multicultural society. Archaeology has provided a huge amount of fresh information concerning villages, farms, and agricultural production (mostly on wine and oil processing), as well as on cities, roads, and defenses. Pottery offers new insights into the everyday economy, while mosaics illuminate the visual culture of the donors and their pagan roots. At the same time, both written sources and archaeology reveal the great diversity and heterogeneity between communities that do not share the same language, the same religion, or even the same Christian theology. The Arab takeover, at least during the Umayyad rule, did not radically affect the economy but gradually introduced a new civilization. Five of the papers are published in this volume of *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*.

#### Program

##### Land and Agriculture

Chair: Jean-Pierre Sodini

Yizhar Hirschfeld, Israel Antiquities Authority

Farms and Villages in Palestine

François Villeneuve, Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient

Les villages et l'exploitation du sol en Transjordanie et Hauran

Rafael Frankel, University of Haifa

Oil and Wine Presses in the Southern Levant in Antiquity

##### Religion

Chair: Alice-Mary Talbot

Irfan Shahîd, Georgetown University

The Boundaries of the Christian Holy Land in the Proto-Byzantine Period: The Transjordanian Sector

Glen Bowersock, Institute for Advanced Study

Polytheism and Monotheism in Arabia and the Three Palestines

Sidney Griffith, Catholic University of America

From Greek to Arabic: The Languages of the Monasteries of Palestine

Cities, Roads, and Defense

Chairs: Ioli Kalavrezou and Christopher Jones

Yoram Tsafrir, Institute of Archeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Bet Shean (Scythopolis) before and after the Muslim Conquest: Evidence from the Excavations

Bert De Vries, Calvin College

Umm el-Jimal

Kenneth Holum, University of Maryland

Urbanism in Palestine: The Case of Caesarea

Dennis Groh, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern University

The Negev Cities: Frontier Byzantine Civilization in the Desert

David Graf, University of Miami

Roads and Exchanges with Arabia, Egypt, and the East

Thomas Parker, North Carolina State University

*Limes* and Defense in Palestine and Transjordan from Diocletian to Heraclius

Oleg Grabar, Institute for Advanced Study

Jerusalem on the Eve of the Arab Takeover

Crafts and Trade

Chair: Henry Maguire

Jeffrey Blakely, Archeological Assessments, Inc.

Local and Imported Wares (4th–7th Centuries): Production, Transport, and Economic Interpretation

Michele Piccirillo, Studium Biblicum Franciscanum

Local Workshops or Imported Artists for the Development of the Mosaic Art in Jordan?

Conclusion: Jean-Pierre Sodini, University of Paris–I